



STATE OF WASHINGTON
ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL
PO Box 43172 • Olympia, Washington 98504-3172

March 2000

Dear Reviewer:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed Sumas Energy 2 Generation Facility (S2GF). The proponent, Sumas Energy 2, Inc. (SE2) has requested a Site Certification Agreement to construct and operate this 660-megawatt combined-cycle combustion turbine facility in the City of Sumas, Whatcom County, Washington.

The Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) has issued this DEIS under contract with Jones & Stokes. The analysis was undertaken to meet the requirements of the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) and EFSEC Rules.

To ensure a complete analysis, we are asking you to review this DEIS and provide comments. Comments should be as specific as possible and may address the adequacy of this DEIS or the merits of alternatives discussed, or both. Commentors are encouraged to supply relevant additional information, respond to the methodologies and processes identified in the DEIS, and/or respond to the mitigation measures identified.

Please note that, although not proposed at this time, an alternative to transporting power into the Canadian electric grid has emerged. This alternative involves local utilities purchasing and transporting power to the U.S. Pacific Northwest electric grid for further distribution. A likely scenario would require construction (by the purchasing utility) of two new 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission lines to connect S2GF to the existing transmission systems in Whatcom County. Because EFSEC considers the possible construction of these two 115 kV transmission lines to be a "connected" action associated with the S2GF project, the impacts associated with construction and operation of these lines are addressed in this EIS. To this end, the routes and pole configuration likely to be chosen for these two 115 kV transmission lines within Whatcom County have been identified by SE2 for evaluation in this EIS. These lines are not proposed for permitting or construction at this time.

This EIS evaluates impacts associated with those portions of the water supply line, wastewater line, and 230 kV electrical transmission line that could potentially lie within the U.S. The evaluation of impacts associated with the Canadian portions of these utilities has been accomplished in a separate document entitled *Environmental Assessment Report, Sumas Energy 2, Inc. 230 kV Electric Transmission Line, Sumas, Washington to B.C. Hydro's Clayburn Substation, Abbotsford, B.C.*

EFSEC has scheduled a public meeting to receive comments on the DEIS. The public meeting will be held at the following time and location:

April 4, 2000, 6 pm - 9 pm
Sumas American Legion Post #212
134 Harrison Ave
Sumas , Washington

The comment period for this document closes on April 17, 2000. Please send your comments to Allen Fiksdal, Manager, Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council, P.O. Box 43172, Olympia, WA 98504-3172. Comments on this document must be postmarked by April 17, 2000.

Please remember, for a comment to be considered to have substance, it should:

1. Provide new information pertaining to the proposed action or an alternative;
2. Identify a new issue or expand upon an existing issue;
3. Identify a different way to meet the underlying need;
4. Provide an opinion regarding an alternative, **including the basis or rationale for the opinion;**
5. Point out a specific flaw in the analysis; or
6. Identify a different source of credible research which, if used in the analysis, could result in different effects.

Reviewers should provide EFSEC with their comments during the review period of the DEIS. This will enable EFSEC to analyze and respond to the comments at one time and to use information acquired in the preparation of the Final Environmental Impact Statement, thus avoiding undue delay in the decision making process.

For further information regarding this proposal, you may also contact Allen Fiksdal, Manager, Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council, P.O. Box 43172, Olympia, WA 98504-3172, (360) 956-2152.

For copies of the DEIS, please contact Allen Fiksdal. You may also access it on the Internet at www.efsec.wa.gov.

Allen Fiksdal
Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council